

12-1-1987

# Labor Market Digest, December 1987

Maine Bureau of Employment Security

Maine Division of Manpower Research

Maine Labor Market Research

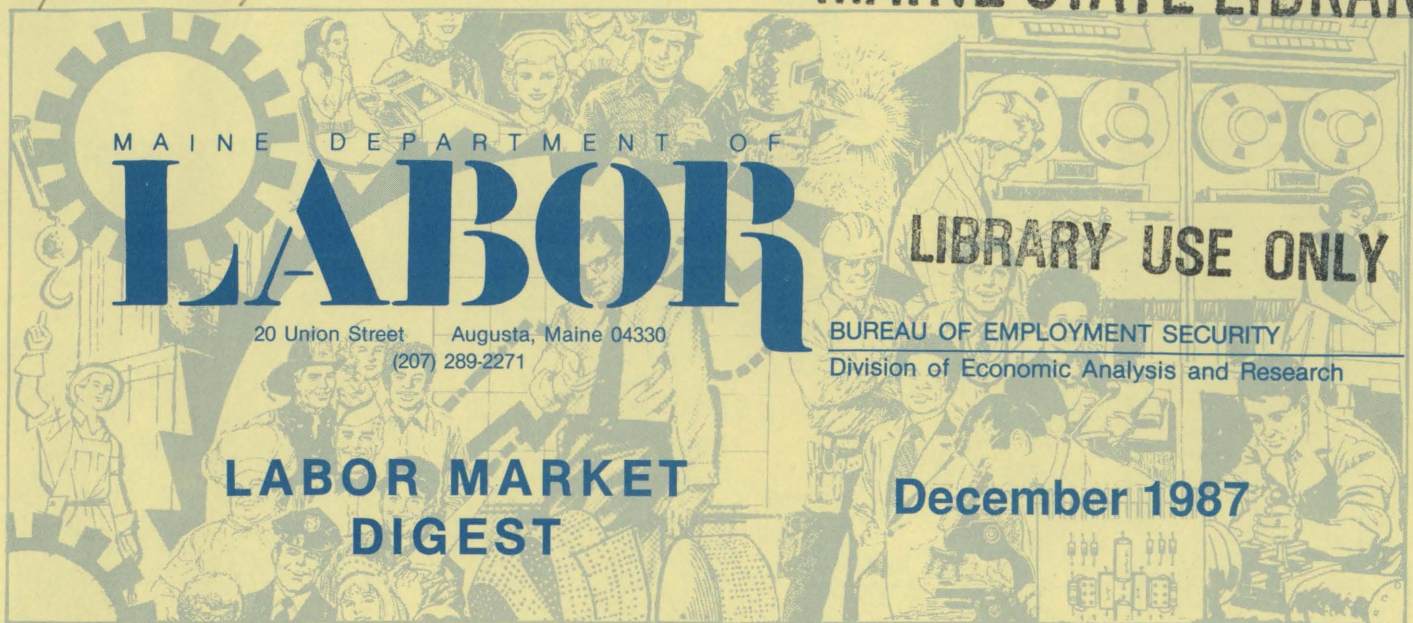
Follow this and additional works at: [https://digitalmaine.com/cwri\\_docs](https://digitalmaine.com/cwri_docs)

---

## Recommended Citation

Maine Bureau of Employment Security, Maine Division of Manpower Research, and Maine Labor Market Research, "Labor Market Digest, December 1987" (1987). *Center for Workforce Research and Information Documents*. 643.  
[https://digitalmaine.com/cwri\\_docs/643](https://digitalmaine.com/cwri_docs/643)

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the Labor at Digital Maine. It has been accepted for inclusion in Center for Workforce Research and Information Documents by an authorized administrator of Digital Maine. For more information, please contact [statedocs@maine.gov](mailto:statedocs@maine.gov).



*A Labor Market Information Newsletter on Maine Economic Activity*

## Year-End Economic Review

### Civilian Labor Force

During 1987 employment growth outpaced civilian labor force gains in Maine. Between 1986 and 1987 the civilian labor force increased by 3.3 percent, from 562,000 to 580,700. At the same time, resident employment increased by approximately 4.5 percent, from 532,000 to 555,700. During 1987 total employment topped 600,000 for the first time ever, reaching 600,100 in August.

While the number of people in the civilian labor force increased by 18,700 between 1986 and 1987, total resident employment grew by 23,700. As a result of employment growing faster than the number of people available to take jobs, unemployment dropped by 5,000 between 1986 and 1987. With 5,000 fewer persons unemployed, Maine's unemployment rate fell from 5.3 percent in 1986 to 4.3 percent in 1987. The statewide rate compares favorably with the national rate which declined from 7.0 percent in 1986 to 6.2 percent in 1987. For the seventh straight year Maine's unemployment rate fell below the national average. During 1987 monthly rates of 2.9 percent were recorded in September and October, representing 31-year lows for unemployment rates in Maine.

### Counties

All counties within Maine, with the exception of Sagadahoc County, registered unemployment rate declines between 1986 and 1987. The tightest labor markets in 1987, as measured by unemployment rates, were in southern and coastal counties, including Cumberland (2.4 percent), York (2.7 percent), Lincoln (3.4 percent), and Knox (3.4 percent). The highest 1987 unemployment rates were recorded by Washington (8.9 percent) and Aroostook (7.9 percent) counties.

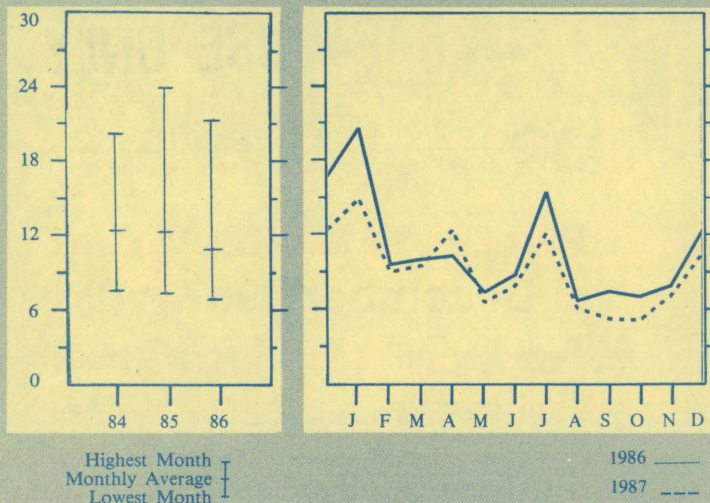
### Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment

Most of the increase in total statewide resident employment of 23,700 between 1986 and 1987 was due to a gain of 19,800 nonfarm wage and salary jobs. During the past year the 4.2 percent growth in nonfarm employment was led by the nonmanufacturing sector, similar to the growth registered between 1985 and 1986 when nonmanufacturing employment gains led to a 4.1 percent increase in nonfarm employment.

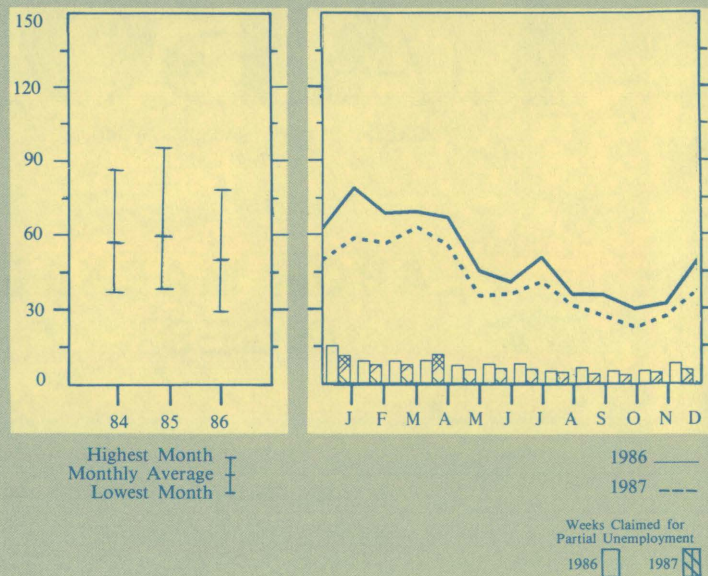
*Continued on page 2*



## UI Initial Claims in Thousands



## UI Intrastate Weeks Claimed in Thousands



...continued from page 1

### Nonmanufacturing

Employment in the nonmanufacturing sector increased by 20,600 between 1986 and 1987 led by gains in services, retail trade, and construction. All other nonmanufacturing industries, including government, wholesale trade, transportation and public utilities, and finance, insurance, and real estate also registered employment increases over the year. During 1987 all-time employment highs were reached by several of the nonmanufacturing industries, including retail trade, services, construction, wholesale trade, and finance, insurance, and real estate.

### Manufacturing

Manufacturing employment remained relatively stable, with a decline of only 800 jobs between 1986 and 1987. However, four of Maine's manufacturing industries reached all-time employment highs during 1987, including electrical and electronic equipment, transportation equipment, furniture and fixtures, and stone, clay, and glass. For most manufacturing industries, output has been going up as employers boost productivity through new equipment and processes.

Within the manufacturing sector, employment gains of 1,400 in durable goods industries were more than offset by losses of 2,200 in nondurable goods industries. Much of the gain in durable goods employment was the result of an increase of 800 in the manufacture of transportation equipment. Expansion by Bath Iron Works accounted for most of the gain of 800. Employment in the other durable goods grouping increased by 400 between 1986 and 1987 due to some growth in furniture and fixtures, professional and technical equipment, and stone, clay, and glass products. Electrical and electronic equipment continued a gradual climb in employment, increasing by 300 between 1986 and 1987 as some of the stronger firms expanded.



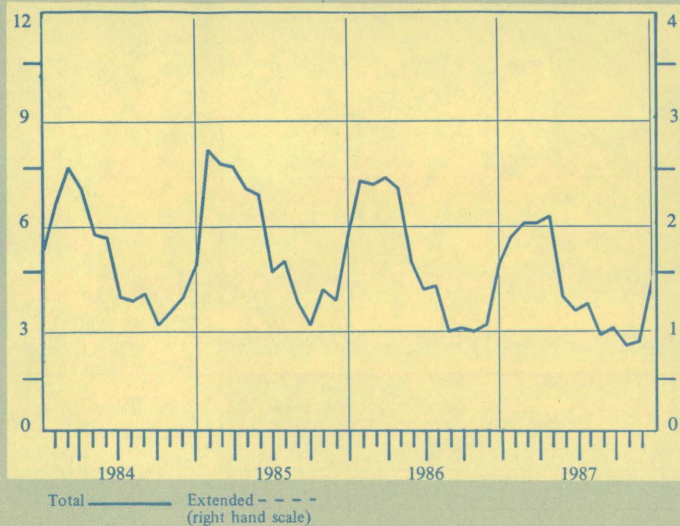


# Selected Employment Security Activities



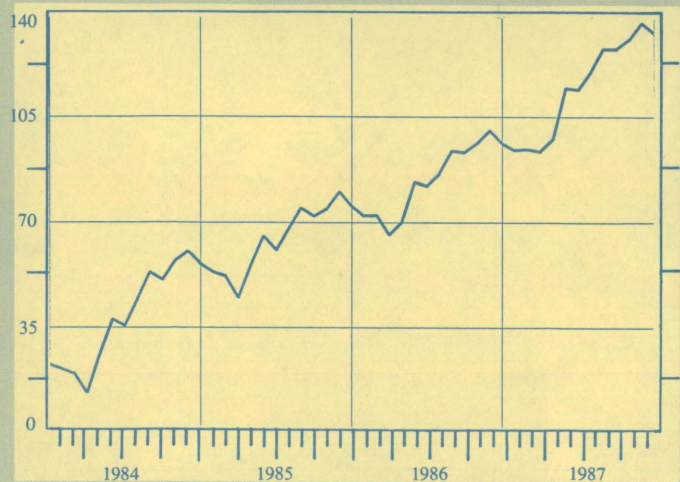
## UI Benefit Payments in Millions

(Total Includes Maine's Portion of Extended Benefits)



## Unemployment Compensation Fund Balance in Millions

(End of Month)



## Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment by Place of Work in Thousands

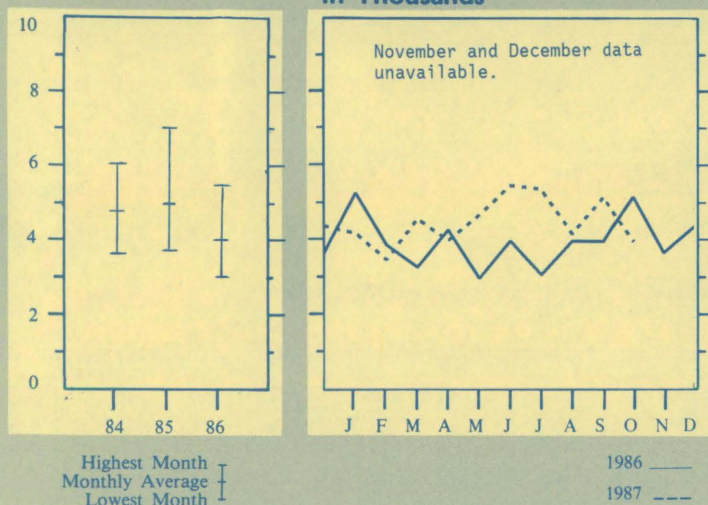
ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Total Nonfarm Wage and Salary Employment <u>1/</u>	512.2	509.8	486.7	125.2	124.3	119.9	39.3	39.1	38.3
Total Manufacturing .....	106.2	104.8	105.5	16.0	15.7	16.6	9.8	9.8	9.8
Durable Goods .....	49.6	48.9	47.7	7.9	7.7	8.2	2.7	2.8	2.8
Lumber and Wood Products <u>2/</u> .....	13.8	13.6	14.2	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.3	0.3	0.3
Primary and Fabricated Metals .....	3.8	3.8	3.9	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.8
Machinery, except Electrical .....	4.1	4.1	3.8	2.3	2.4	2.3	0.2	0.2	0.3
Electrical and Electronic Equipment .....	11.3	10.9	10.2	3.4	3.3	3.4	0.8	0.7	0.8
Transportation Equipment <u>3/</u> .....	11.4	11.2	10.8	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.2	0.2	0.2
Other Durable Goods <u>4/</u> .....	5.2	5.3	4.8	0.8	0.7	1.1	0.4	0.6	0.4
Nondurable Goods .....	56.6	55.9	57.8	8.1	8.0	8.4	7.1	7.0	7.0
Food and Kindred Products .....	7.2	7.1	7.9	1.6	1.5	1.9	0.8	0.8	0.8
Textile Mill Products .....	6.7	6.6	6.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.2	1.2	1.2
Apparel .....	3.5	3.5	4.3	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.1	0.1	0.1
Paper and Allied Products .....	17.3	17.0	17.6	(d)	(d)	(d)	0.5	0.5	0.5
Printing and Publishing .....	5.1	5.0	5.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.7	0.6	0.6
Rubber and Misc. Plastic Products .....	3.6	3.5	3.5	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.6	1.6	1.6
Leather and Leather Products .....	12.2	12.0	11.8	1.5	1.5	1.5	2.0	2.0	2.1
Footwear (except Rubber) .....	10.2	10.1	9.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.6	1.7	1.6
Other Leather Products .....	2.0	1.9	2.1	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.4	0.3	0.5
Other Nondurable Goods <u>5/</u> .....	1.0	1.2	1.0	5.0	5.0	5.0	0.2	0.2	0.1
Total Nonmanufacturing .....	406.0	405.0	381.2	109.2	108.6	103.3	29.5	29.3	28.5
Mining .....	0.1	0.1	0.1	*	*	*	*	*	*
Contract Construction .....	30.2	31.0	26.4	8.2	8.2	7.1	2.0	2.1	1.7
Transportation and Public Utilities .....	19.4	19.6	19.6	6.2	6.3	6.0	1.4	1.4	1.3
Wholesale Trade .....	25.0	24.9	23.4	9.0	9.0	8.8	1.9	1.9	2.0
Retail Trade .....	105.4	103.1	94.8	28.5	28.0	27.3	7.9	7.6	7.4
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate .....	24.2	24.0	23.1	12.1	12.1	11.1	2.2	2.2	2.2
Services .....	107.9	108.0	102.4	29.7	29.6	27.6	10.0	10.1	9.9
Government .....	93.8	94.3	91.4	15.5	15.4	15.4	4.1	4.0	4.0
Federal .....	18.6	18.7	17.9	1.9	1.8	1.8	0.3	0.3	0.3
State and Local <u>6/</u> .....	75.2	75.6	73.5	13.6	13.6	13.6	3.8	3.7	3.7
Involved in Labor-Management Disputes .....	1.6	1.2	0.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

1/ Employment figures relate to full - and part-time wage and salary workers in pay periods including the 12th of the month. Domestic workers in private households, proprietors, self-employed, and unpaid family workers are excluded. 2/ Lumber and wood products and furniture and fixtures are combined in the Portland and Lewiston series. 3/ Transportation equipment and instruments are combined in the Lewiston series. 4/ Includes Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes: Statewide - 25, 32, 38, 39; Portland - 32, 38, 39; Lewiston - 32, 39. 5/ Includes SIC codes: Statewide - 28, 29; Portland - 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30; Lewiston - 23, 28, 29. 6/ Regular teachers are included in summer months whether or not specifically paid in those months. n/a - data not available in sufficient detail for publication. \*Less than 50. (d) Nondisclosure item.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

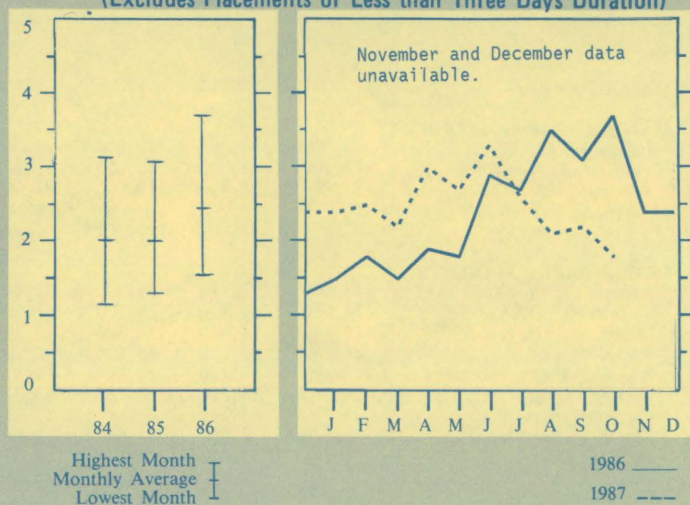


## New Applications For Work in Thousands



## Nonfarm Placements

in Thousands  
(Excludes Placements of Less than Three Days Duration)



## Earnings and Workweek of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

AREA AND INDUSTRY	AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS			AVERAGE WEEKLY HOURS			AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS			ANNUAL AVERAGE HOURLY EARNINGS		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	1986	1985	1984
<b>STATEWIDE</b>												
Manufacturing .....	\$370.12	\$370.82	\$363.96	41.4	41.9	41.5	\$8.94	\$8.85	\$8.77	\$8.65	\$8.40	\$8.05
Durable Goods .....	361.24	360.72	354.90	42.7	43.2	42.0	8.46	8.35	8.45	8.52	8.46	8.22
Lumber and Wood Products .....	338.99	342.77	322.55	40.5	42.9	41.3	8.37	7.99	7.81	7.74	8.06	7.57
Primary and Fabricated Metals .....	399.25	401.39	385.85	42.7	45.1	43.5	9.35	8.90	8.87	8.58	8.25	7.89
Machinery, except Electrical .....	477.74	417.23	399.07	53.2	45.4	41.7	8.98	9.19	9.57	9.62	9.11	8.36
Electrical and Electronic Equipment ..	321.88	329.21	325.20	40.9	41.1	40.0	7.87	8.01	8.13	7.94	7.57	7.56
Other Durable Goods .....	376.26	377.94	391.15	43.7	44.1	43.9	8.61	8.57	8.91	9.41	9.50	9.51
Nondurable Goods .....	378.82	379.73	371.13	40.3	40.7	41.1	9.40	9.33	9.03	8.76	8.31	7.95
Food and Kindred Products .....	276.02	259.78	266.58	37.0	35.2	37.6	7.46	7.38	7.09	7.00	6.63	6.46
Textile Mill Products .....	293.96	296.51	306.25	39.3	39.8	42.3	7.48	7.45	7.24	7.04	6.64	6.13
Apparel .....	220.54	239.00	213.56	35.4	40.1	38.0	6.23	5.96	5.62	5.73	5.83	5.55
Paper and Allied Products .....	604.80	637.49	602.53	44.8	46.6	46.1	13.50	13.68	13.07	12.70	12.25	11.62
Leather and Leather Products .....	250.80	236.74	234.99	38.0	37.4	37.3	6.60	6.33	6.30	6.05	5.93	5.80
Other Nondurable Goods .....	339.73	328.80	337.34	40.3	40.0	40.4	8.43	8.22	8.35	8.00	7.51	7.11
<b>PORTLAND MSA</b>												
Manufacturing .....	389.62	389.23	372.40	43.1	43.2	40.0	9.04	9.01	9.31	9.17	8.90	8.08
<b>LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA</b>												
Manufacturing .....	315.47	300.80	296.68	41.4	40.0	40.2	7.62	7.52	7.38	7.19	6.78	6.58

## Female Labor Force in Maine in Thousands

ITEM	This Month 1/	Last Month 1/	Year Ago 2/
Labor Force .....	267.0	267.4	246.8
Unemployed .....	9.9	10.4	11.7
(Percent) .....	3.7%	3.9%	4.7%
Resident Employed .....	257.1	257.0	235.1

1/ Preliminary estimates 2/ Revised

## U.S. Consumer Price Index

BASE PERIOD	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	Last Dec.
(1967=100) All Items (CPI-U)	345.7	345.8	331.1	331.1
Percent Change for Past Month .....			0.0%	
Percent Change from Last December .....			+4.4%	
Percent Change from 12 Months Ago .....			+4.4%	



# Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment in Thousands

AREA 1/	LABOR FORCE 2/			RESIDENT EMPLOYED			UNEMPLOYMENT Number			UNEMPLOYMENT Percent of Labor Force		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
<b>MAINE-Statewide</b> .....	600.1	601.4	556.6	578.8	580.4	532.6	21.3	21.0	24.0	3.5	3.5	4.3
<b>MAJOR LABOR MARKETS</b>												
Bangor MSA .....	43,300	43,200	40,600	42,000	42,000	38,800	1,300	1,200	1,800	3.0	2.8	4.4
Lewiston-Auburn MSA .....	42,200	41,900	40,200	40,300	40,200	38,000	1,900	1,700	2,200	4.5	4.1	5.5
Portland MSA .....	129,400	128,700	119,500	127,000	126,300	117,100	2,400	2,400	2,400	1.9	1.9	2.0
Portland-Dover- Rochester MSA 3/ .....	n/a	131,700	126,200	n/a	129,400	123,200	n/a	2,300	3,000	n/a	1.7	2.4
<b>OTHER LABOR MARKETS</b>												
Augusta .....	33,580	33,710	31,390	32,440	32,590	30,170	1,140	1,120	1,220	3.4	3.3	3.9
Bath-Brunswick .....	28,680	28,920	26,100	27,960	28,080	25,540	720	840	560	2.5	2.9	2.1
Belfast .....	11,170	10,880	10,340	10,280	10,310	9,500	890	570	840	8.0	5.2	8.1
Biddeford .....	26,660	27,150	24,480	25,930	26,530	23,440	730	620	1,040	2.7	2.3	4.2
Boothbay Harbor-Wiscasset ..	12,710	13,180	11,250	12,240	12,660	10,710	470	520	540	3.7	3.9	4.8
Calais-Eastport .....	14,040	14,290	12,780	13,010	13,240	11,840	1,030	1,050	940	7.3	7.3	7.4
Caribou-Presque Isle .....	23,270	23,210	20,890	21,550	21,540	19,290	1,720	1,670	1,600	7.4	7.2	7.7
Central Penobscot .....	2,800	2,880	2,610	2,680	2,760	2,460	120	120	150	4.3	4.2	5.7
Dover-Foxcroft .....	6,660	6,690	6,670	6,390	6,390	6,240	270	300	430	4.1	4.5	6.4
Ellsworth .....	22,470	23,290	20,500	21,330	21,940	19,250	1,140	1,350	1,250	5.1	5.8	6.1
Farmington .....	12,500	12,270	12,120	12,020	11,670	11,470	480	600	650	3.8	4.9	5.4
Fort Kent-Allagash .....	5,620	5,820	5,300	5,370	5,480	4,920	250	340	380	4.4	5.8	7.2
Greenville .....	1,320	1,310	1,230	1,220	1,250	1,120	100	60	110	7.6	4.6	8.9
Houlton .....	6,010	6,120	5,680	5,800	5,760	5,320	210	360	360	3.5	5.9	6.3
Kittery-York 3/ .....	30,380	30,300	28,120	29,990	29,970	27,760	390	330	360	1.3	1.1	1.3
Lincoln-Howland .....	5,340	5,330	5,160	5,100	5,120	4,920	240	210	240	4.5	3.9	4.7
Livermore Falls .....	4,430	4,670	4,390	4,150	4,320	4,090	280	350	300	6.3	7.5	6.8
Madawaska-Van Buren .....	3,760	3,740	3,610	3,430	3,460	3,250	330	280	360	8.8	7.5	10.0
Millinocket-East Millinocket ..	4,360	4,240	4,220	4,060	4,070	3,970	300	170	250	6.9	4.0	5.9
Norway-Paris .....	12,100	12,110	11,090	11,700	11,710	10,590	400	400	500	3.3	3.3	4.5
Patten-Island Falls .....	2,510	2,460	2,400	2,340	2,340	2,230	170	120	170	6.8	4.9	7.1
Rockland .....	18,510	18,700	16,240	17,960	18,190	15,550	550	510	690	3.0	2.7	4.2
Rumford .....	8,920	8,740	8,070	8,550	8,410	7,550	370	330	520	4.1	3.8	6.4
Sanford .....	16,600	16,740	15,230	16,160	16,260	14,530	440	480	700	2.7	2.9	4.6
Sebang Lakes Region .....	12,220	12,460	10,990	11,950	12,160	10,690	270	300	300	2.2	2.4	2.7
Skowhegan .....	24,470	24,440	22,430	23,220	23,270	21,040	1,250	1,170	1,390	5.1	4.8	6.2
Southwest Penobscot .....	10,470	10,500	10,270	9,830	9,860	9,530	640	640	740	6.1	6.1	7.2
Waterville .....	23,780	23,550	22,860	22,920	22,700	21,770	860	850	1,090	3.6	3.6	4.8
<b>OTHER</b>												
<b>NEW ENGLAND STATES</b>												
Connecticut .....	n/a	1,796.5	1,777.2	n/a	1,739.8	1,715.9	n/a	56.7	61.3	n/a	3.2	3.4
Massachusetts .....	3,075.0	3,085.0	3,055.9	2,993.0	3,013.0	2,960.5	81.0	72.0	95.4	2.6	2.3	3.1
New Hampshire .....	593.1	591.3	565.9	580.0	578.0	551.8	13.1	13.3	14.1	2.2	2.2	2.5
Rhode Island .....	531.2	530.4	519.7	512.4	514.0	500.2	18.8	16.4	19.5	3.5	3.1	3.7
Vermont .....	302.8	297.0	296.8	292.2	286.8	283.5	10.7	10.2	13.3	3.5	3.4	4.5
<b>NEW ENGLAND STATES ...</b>	n/a	6,901.6	6,772.1	n/a	6,712.0	6,544.5	n/a	189.6	227.6	n/a	2.7	3.4
<b>UNITED STATES 4/ .....</b>	120,206	120,611	118,049	113,679	113,809	110,588	6,526	6,802	7,461	5.4	5.6	6.3

MSA-Metropolitan Statistical Area

## Footnotes

- 1/ Labor force, employment, and unemployment data for all areas not seasonally adjusted. Estimates made independently for each labor market area have been benchmarked to and extrapolated from the Current Population Survey estimates for the state. All data adjusted to place of residence basis. Excludes members of the Armed Forces.
- 2/ Current and last month figures preliminary; year ago figures revised.
- 3/ Kittery-York is the eight-town Maine portion of the Portland-Dover-Rochester MSA which includes towns in both Maine and New Hampshire.
- 4/ National estimates based on a sample of household visits; state estimates based on enlargements of employment figures reported.

THESE DATA ARE DEVELOPED BY THE MAINE BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY IN COOPERATION WITH THE U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS.

## Mid-Month Insured Unemployment (Less Partial)

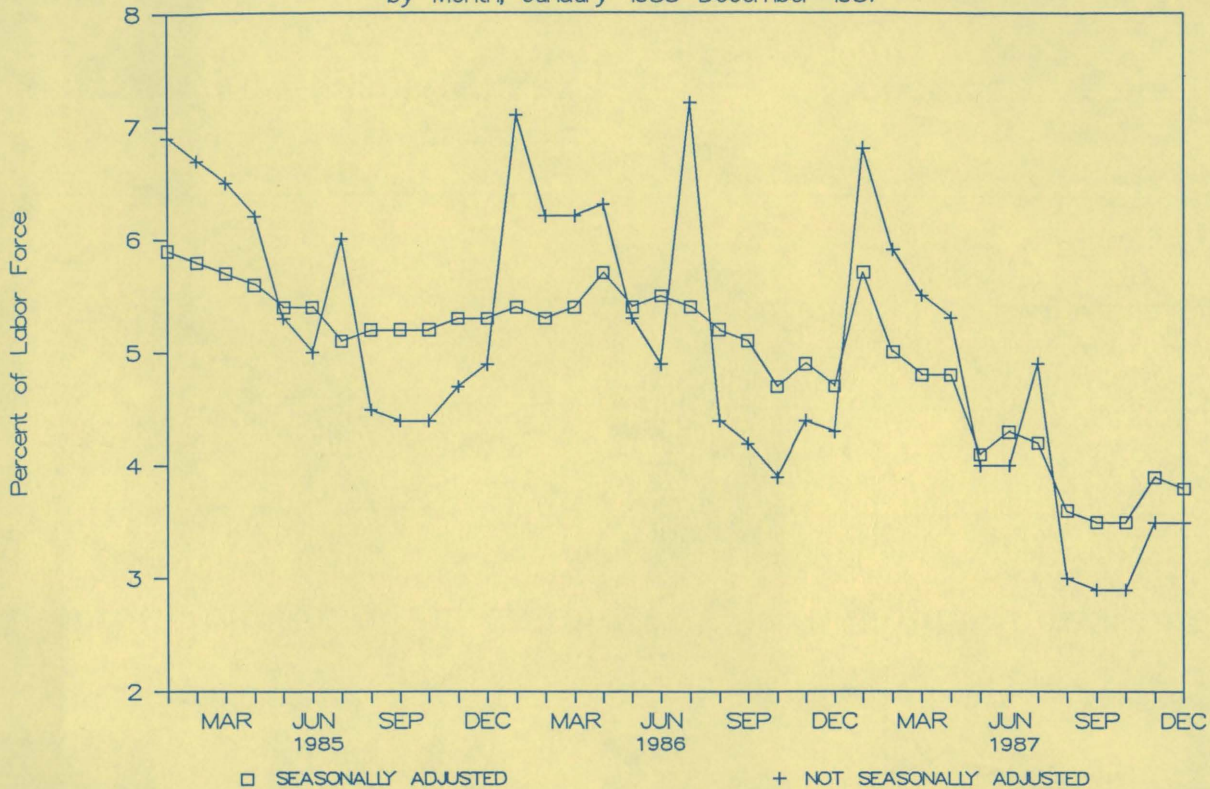
ITEM	STATEWIDE			PORTLAND MSA			LEWISTON-AUBURN MSA		
	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago	This Month	Last Month	Year Ago
Number of Continued-Week Claimants .....	6,205	4,696	8,139	588	479	784	583	414	755
Insured Unemployment Rate * .....	1.3	1.0	1.8	0.5	0.4	0.7	1.6	1.2	2.1

\* Should not be confused with insured unemployment rates as defined in the Employment Security Law.



# Unemployment Rates in Maine

by Month, January 1985–December 1987



•6•

The Bureau of Employment Security is affiliated with the U.S. Employment and Training Administration and is a Federal-State Statistical Program Cooperative Representative of the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Published under Appropriation No. 03444.2

MAINE DEPARTMENT OF  
**LABOR**  
20 Union Street Augusta, Maine 04330

BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY  
Division of Economic Analysis and Research

December 1987



POSTAGE AND FEES PAID  
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY  
LAB 449



"For Qualified Workers Contact Your Local  
Bureau of Employment Security Job Service Office"

Labor Market Information Services

